



News Release

Communications New Brunswick

New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

REVISED / Human Rights Commission chair to participate in UN expert group on disability convention (07/01/15)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) – The chair of the Human Rights Commission, Dr. Gordon L. Porter of Woodstock, has been asked to participate in a United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

“The convention is important because people with a disability continue to face human rights issues throughout the world,” Porter said. “We tend to think that their rights are well protected in countries such as Canada, but the Ashley case in the United States reminds us that there are many unresolved issues, even in developed countries.”

The Ashley case concerns a series of surgeries and drug treatments undertaken to stunt the growth of and sterilize a nine year old girl in Washington state who has a severe mental disability.

The Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the UN’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on ‘Ensuring Access’ in support of the implementation of the convention. The meeting is part of initial efforts by UNDESA to establish mechanisms to support the implementation of the convention. In view of his expertise, Porter was invited to participate in the planned meeting.

A retired professor, Dr. Porter is a well-known expert on the inclusion of students with a disability into regular classes. He is the chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and the president of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies, the national organization for human rights commissions in Canada.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the UN on Dec. 13, 2006.

07/01/15

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